



- More than 50,000 disabled Sri Lankans have benefitted from USAID programs in the last four years.
- USAID partnered with the private sector to catalyze investments and generate better incomes for more than 30,000 vulnerable people in the former conflict zones.
- During 2013 and 2014, USAID provided legal aid and victims' assistance to 25,000 Sri Lankans in marginalized communities.

Photo credit: USAID SOLID project

Country Profile

Sri Lanka, an island nation located along major maritime trade routes in the Indian Ocean, is entering a new chapter following democratic elections in 2015, the end of 26 years of internal conflict in 2009 and a decade of recovery from a devastating tsunami in 2004. With Sri Lanka's focus now on the development of democratic institutions, the reconciliation of multi-ethnic and religious communities, and sustainable economic growth, USAID works with the Government and people of Sri Lanka to accelerate progress in these areas to ensure all Sri Lankans benefit from nationwide progress.

USAID prioritizes programs that extend critical social services at the local level, strengthen the ability of local organizations to advocate for all Sri Lankans, strengthen democratic institutions and good governance, and bolster economic growth.

OUR WORK

Located off the southeastern tip of India, Sri Lanka is roughly the size of West Virginia with a population of more than 20 million. The United States has worked with Sri Lanka since 1956 to help communities across the country improve their lives and livelihoods. In recent years, Sri Lanka has experienced steady economic growth, achieving middle-income status in 2010 and a gross domestic product growth rate of more than 7 percent in 2014. The island is characterized by high literacy, long life expectancy, and low infant and maternal mortality.

Despite this progress, significant disparities in income and access to basic services persist across the country. After the resettlement of more than 300,000 people, the country's progress is now hindered by post-conflict issues, including gender-based violence, child abuse and hardships affecting youth, war widows, ex-combatants and female heads of households.

In 2015, through the election of a new president and parliament, Sri Lankans reaffirmed their desire for a sweeping reform agenda that limits presidential powers, ensures greater freedom of expression, addresses corruption and begins the process of reconciliation. Against this backdrop, USAID partners to address issues facing communities affected by conflict, support good governance and the implementation of democratic reforms, and promote greater economic growth.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

USAID has assisted the most vulnerable Sri Lankans during multiple humanitarian crises since the 1980s. Today, USAID is one of the few development partners working directly with communities on natural disaster and risk management. Six years after the end of the conflict, many Sri Lankans have returned home to face hardship. USAID supports the provision of a variety of services in these communities including transitional shelter, clean water, sanitation facilities, psychosocial support, rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, skills training for youth, reintegration of ex-combatants, rehabilitation of livelihoods, and employment opportunities for war widows and female heads of households. Through these services, USAID supports reconciliation efforts at both the household and community levels.

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

USAID programming strengthens the rule of law, builds a robust civil society and promotes reconciliation — all of which are prerequisites for long-term stability and prosperity. USAID ensures greater access to justice for all citizens by building the capacity of local civil society and professional legal organizations, providing legal education to professionals, connecting universities and local organizations to develop policy and legal reforms that respond to citizens' needs, and assisting marginalized groups with legal assistance. USAID provides management support, organizational development, financial and project management, and monitoring and evaluation training to local organizations to extend much-needed services to citizens, advocate for their needs and sustain vital services long after donor resources phase out of the country. USAID programs also provide technical assistance to key democratic institutions, including to the Sri Lankan Parliament to improve legislative processes and practices and to the Election Commission to ensure continued free and fair elections.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

To encourage much-needed economic growth and promote financial stability, especially in economically lagging regions, USAID forges partnerships with small- and medium-sized businesses to create employment opportunities, promote investment, develop the skills of local residents through training, and revive economic opportunity. USAID improves agricultural, dairy and poultry sectors, promotes healthy food options, and links local producers to income-generating markets. These activities empower vulnerable populations, including war widows, the disabled and resettled families. In support of new economic governance reforms, USAID is helping to strengthen public financial management and procurement processes in Sri Lanka through technical assistance, trainings and workshops at the local and national levels.

CONTACTS

Mission

Reed Aeschliman, Acting Mission Director
USAID/Sri Lanka
44 Galle Road
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka
Phone: +94-11-2498000 • Fax: +94-11-2472850
E-mail: infosl@usaid.gov

Headquarters

Christopher Miller, Desk Officer
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC, USA 20523
Phone: (202) 712-5687
E-mail: chrMiller@usaid.gov



Thanks to rainwater harvesting tanks, drought-prone communities in Sri Lanka have access to clean water. Photo credit: Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum



USAID is helping to revive economic growth in rural communities by supporting private enterprise, creating jobs and developing skills. Photo credit: Land O' Lakes